

STARS AND STRIPES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Four Pages

Alliance claims prison revolt quashed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Anti-Taliban forces claimed to have retaken control Tuesday of a fort where captured Osama bin Laden loyalists staged a three-day prison revolt.

U.S. Marines, meanwhile, expanded their base of operations in southern Afghanistan, sending out heavily armed patrols as part of the campaign to crush bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network and its Taliban allies.

Elsewhere, a Swedish television journalist was killed in an overnight robbery in the northern town of Taloqan. Ulf Stroemberg, of the Swedish television network TV4, was the eighth journalist to die in Afghanistan since the start of the U.S.-led military campaign on Oct. 7.

Along with the Marine deployment in the south, U.S. special forces were in action helping Northern Alliance forces put down the bloody uprising in a mud-walled fortress-prison outside the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif.

The alliance said it had suppressed the revolt by Tuesday evening, killing the last of hun-

dreds of rebelling Osama bin Laden loyalists. A courtyard of the fortress was littered with the bodies of 60 fighters slain in the fierce battle.

U.S. Marines in Humvees loaded with anti-tank weapons and heavy machine guns patrolled the deserts Tuesday around the base they set up west of the Taliban's last stronghold, the southern city of Kandahar.

U.S. helicopters and KC-130s landed on the hardpacked sand Tuesday of the base, where an American flag was planted at the center of a compound of buildings.

In Kandahar, residents reached by telephone said Taliban fighters appeared demoralized and fearful of attack. Streets were largely deserted, except for pickup trucks of Taliban soldiers armed with rocket launchers and Kalashnikovs, they said.

"They are not as active and alert as they used to be, and they don't patrol as much," said Mohammed Asan, a traveler from Kandahar arriving in Chaman, Pakistan.

After negotiations with Pashtun tribal leaders on the fate of Taliban-

held Spinboldak, a key town on the main road from Kandahar to the Pakistani border, tribesmen looted blankets and food from humanitarian aid warehouses and drove the Taliban from power, the Afghan Islamic Press said.

"It seems that Taliban have ceased" to control the area, the Pakistan-based news agency said, citing witnesses. The report could not be independently verified.

The Taliban have vowed to fight to the death in Kandahar. A spokesman, Mullah Abdullah, told the Pakistan-based news agency that Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar was still in town and in command of his troops.

U.S. Marines set up their base Monday, seizing the airstrip near Kandahar with no resistance, and quickly sent helicopter gunships aloft to follow up an air strike by Navy F-14 Tomcat jets on an armored convoy of 15 vehicles.

Capt. John Barranco, 30, of Boston, said the Marines watched the Tomcats launch their attack, then flew over the convoy and attacked it themselves.

"There didn't seem to be any-

thing left of a useful military nature," he said.

In daylight Tuesday, the camp seemed busy but calm. Mortar rounds could be heard in the distance as Marines ranged in their potential targets.

The Marines' commander, Gen. James Mattis, said more than 1,000 troops would soon be on the ground.

At the mud-walled Galai Janghi outside Mazar-e Sharif in the north, fierce fighting raged during the day as alliance fighters battled the rebelling Taliban prisoners inside. U.S. special forces and soldiers who appeared to be British were also seen moving in and out of the fort, some with guns fitted with laser scopes.

Dozens of bodies and body parts — of soldiers from both sides — were scattered about the sprawling fortress. In one courtyard, television footage showed at least 60 dead — apparently Taliban fighters.

By the evening, the alliance claimed to have defeated the prisoners.

Franks: 40 possible weapons labs identified

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The United States has identified more than 40 sites inside Afghanistan where loyalists to Osama bin Laden may have been conducting research on chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, the U.S. war commander said Tuesday.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks told a news conference that these sites are now under control of anti-Taliban forces and are being systematically checked by U.S. authorities for evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

"We'll perform the tests that need to be performed at every possible facility," Franks said. He gave no indication that the tests performed so far have produced any

evidence of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons research.

Officials of President Bush's administration have said they take seriously claims by bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network that they have pursued the development of weapons of mass destruction.

Franks appeared at a Tampa news conference with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at his side. Rumsfeld flew to Tampa to visit U.S. Central Command, whose headquarters is at nearby McDill Air Force Base.

Franks last week visited U.S. troops in and around Afghanistan. He told the news conference that "it has been a good week for us" in the fight against terrorism.

Rumsfeld spoke equally enthusiastically of progress on the ground in destroying the Taliban and al-Qaida.

"Some of their strongholds are falling," he said. "Their communications are being disrupted. Their leaders are being forced to move about the country to stay alive."

En route to Tampa from Washington, Rumsfeld told reporters that America should not be too quick to claim victory in Afghan cities that have fallen to rebels, even as a revolt by Taliban prisoners was being put down.

"Anyone who believes it's over in these towns are just wrong," Rumsfeld said.

Meanwhile Tuesday, U.S. offi-

cials were trying to learn what happened to a CIA operative who was feared killed in a northern Afghanistan uprising by captured Taliban.

Northern Alliance opposition fighters helped by U.S. and British special forces claimed to have quashed the uprising at a fortress prison. Rumsfeld said Monday that officials would be unable to determine if the CIA agent had been captured, killed or injured until the compound was secured.

"The U.S. government is trying to ascertain his whereabouts," Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said Tuesday as it was reported that the compound had been brought under control.

Afghan peace at stake as talks begin

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany (AP) — Four Afghan factions began talks Tuesday on how to share power once the Taliban are defeated, with a U.S. official saying all sides favored giving Afghanistan's former king a role as a unifying figure.

Delegations representing the Northern Alliance, exiles backing the ex-king and two smaller exile groups all pledged to seek a power-sharing formula as they began talks under strong international pressure to end more than two decades of war.

While the Afghans are meeting, the United States, Russia and neighbors such as Pakistan and Iran are exerting heavy influence from the corridors. Regional stability and billions in development aid are at stake.

"The atmospherics for the opening session were remarkably good," said James F. Dobbins, the U.S. government's Central Asia envoy. "The prospects of us making some progress are pretty good."

Dobbins said detailed discussions were only beginning, but he suggested the factions could agree

to establish former king Mohammad Zaher Shah — who has lived in exile in Italy since his 1973 ouster — as unifying figure.

"Everybody sees the ex-king as a rallying point and hopes that he will be ready and able to play that role," he said.

Zaher Shah is a Pashtun, the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, estimated at between 40 and 55 percent of the population. The Pashtuns — whose participation is seen as key in any government — have no separate delegation at the talks, though there are Pashtun representatives in each of the groups.

The Northern Alliance, made up mainly of members of the Tajik and Uzbek ethnic minorities, holds a strong hand entering the conference, since its fighters now control around half the country and hold the capital, Kabul.

During their first closed session, the delegates agreed that their goal was to establish an interim administration that would be followed by the convening of a national assembly of tribal leaders, or a *loya jirga*, possibly by the Afghan New Year, in March, U.N. spokesman Ahmad

Fawzi told reporters.

The assembly would then approve another transitional administration that would govern for up to two years. After that would be a second *loya jirga*, which would approve a constitution that will guarantee rights for all Afghans, women included, and a goal of elections, Fawzi said.

The leaders also agreed to try and reach a consensus in three to five days, he said.

In a strong Pashtun endorsement, Pashtun leader Hamid Karzai telephoned the conference room from Afghanistan.

Fawzi read excerpts from the call: "We have been made extremely poor and vulnerable but we are a strong people who would like to assert our will and a sense of self-determination," he said.

"This meeting is the path toward salvation."

Due to rapid developments on the battlefield, key warlords — including Karzai — stayed home, sending sons, sons-in-law or key aides instead.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer opened the conference at a luxury hotel overlooking the

Rhine River, urging delegates "to forge a truly historic compromise that holds out a better future for your torn country and its people."

The delegates must agree on binding rules for a future political system and respect for human rights, particularly for women, whose participation is "essential for the country's peaceful future," Fischer said.

The Northern Alliance delegation here said it would not use its battlefield victories to seek advantage.

"It is not our pride to monopolize power. It will be our pride to work for a broad-based government based on the will of the people of Afghanistan," the Northern Alliance delegation leader, Younus Qanooni, said.

However, the alliance's titular head, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said the Germany talks were unlikely to yield substantial results. He told reporters in Dubai that the Bonn talks "should be the last meeting held outside Afghanistan. I don't expect decisive results from the meeting."

Russian forces establish camp in Afghanistan

By Jon R. Anderson

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Circling up about 20 military trucks and trailers as if they were camped in the heart of Indian territory, a contingent of Russian troops suddenly appeared in the heart of Afghanistan's capital Tuesday morning.

In what can only be described as one of the most surreal sights to hit Afghanistan since the United States launched its counterstrike against terrorism, the troops represent the first return of Russian forces since the Soviet Union retreated from the country when its 10-year occupation ended in defeat in 1989.

United Nations officials in Kabul said they were caught by surprise by the overnight Russian deployment.

Coupled with a top-level Russian delegation visiting Kabul in recent days, however, the arrival of the new contingent clearly marks a move by Afghanistan's old enemies to once again exert influence in the region independent of U.S. efforts.

Wearing flak vests and toting Kalashnikov assault rifles, the troops are not technically part of the Russian army, but are instead drawn from a paramilitary emergency management agency.

"They are not soldiers," said Northern Alliance foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, explaining the contingent had come at the invitation of opposition officials now in control of Kabul and most of Afghanistan. He said the 100-strong contingent was in the country to re-establish a Russian embassy in Kabul.

"The people of Kabul understand this is a new situation," he said. "Kabul should be a diplomatic city, a city for peace. The Russian Federation is not the Soviet Union."

Many on the streets of Kabul gawking in disbelief at the sight of the Russian troops were not so quick to welcome the new arrivals, however.

"I am very surprised," said Mohammed Holey. "They should not come here. The Russians did terrible things in Afghanistan."

"If they are here to open an embassy, why do they need all these weapons and military equipment?" asked Faza Ahmed Baiheen, pointing to

the ring of olive drab trucks, covered in a long swath of camouflage netting and surrounding the Russian camp. A cordon of Russian troops — along with a handful of Afghan police — kept onlookers at a distance. Inside the ring of vehicles, more troops pitched green-and-tan military tents and unloaded rucksacks and gear.

"An embassy does not need these kinds of weapons," said Baiheen, shaking his head.

Others, however, were willing to accept the Russians, if cautiously.

"If they come for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan, it is OK," said Sayed Misrza, an Afghan security force commander, dressed in Russian-made green-and-brown camouflage fatigues. "But if they are here for something else, we will destroy them."

Staring in disbelief, many of the onlookers were at first confused.

"Are they Americans?" asked one bystander. "Russians!" he exclaimed after a friend whispered in his ear. "They should not be here."

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No Senate action on cloning seen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite a White House call for Congress to outlaw human cloning, Senate leaders don't plan to bring up the issue again until next year.

While some anti-abortion Republicans want at least a temporary ban put into law, members in both parties said they don't expect action by the Senate before Congress adjourns this year.

"A lot of senators want time to think through all the medical and scientific issues involved," said Doug Hattaway, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

Many lawmakers returning from the Thanksgiving recess denounced Sunday's announcement by a Massachusetts company that scientists had cloned a six-cell human embryo. But they also acknowledged swift action to halt

the fast-moving research is unlikely.

"The Senate never acts immediately, very seldom," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala. "And I don't think it should in this area because this has profound applications."

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., held out the threat of trying to delay other bills. But he acknowledged that the most he hoped to get was a temporary ban.

"We don't know who else in the country is working on the issue of human cloning. Let's stop this for a few months, let's pause for a short period of time," Brownback said Tuesday.

President Bush appealed to Congress to act.

"The use of embryos to clone is wrong," Bush said. "We should not, as a society, grow life to de-

stroy it, and that's exactly what is taking place."

The House, by a vote of 265-162, passed a ban on cloning in July, after attempts by some lawmakers to exempt research. The issue was raised in the Senate this month but a showdown was avoided after leaders promised extensive hearings next spring.

Advanced Cell Technology, based in Worcester, Mass., said it hopes to develop genetically compatible replacement cells for patients with a range of illnesses — but not human clones.

The issue delves into the thorny debate of stem cells, which are taken from embryos and can grow into various kinds of tissue.

Supporters argue that embryos used in stem cell research — even cloned ones — are not yet humans. Opponents disagree.

Wintery weather hits upper Midwest

The Associated Press

Blowing, drifting snow made travel hazardous Tuesday in northern Wisconsin and closed schools on the second day of a storm that already had dumped more than two feet of snow on the Upper Midwest and Plains.

Four traffic deaths were blamed on the storm.

Wind gusted to 45 mph at Superior, Wis., and as much as 15 inches of snow was possible across the northern part of the state by late Tuesday. Fourteen inches already had fallen by midmorning on Michigan's Upper Peninsula and at Grand View, Wis., as the storm continued its northeasterly track into Canada, the National Weather Service said.

Travel was not recommended because of ice, blowing and drifting snow and poor visibility in Wisconsin's northern counties, said State Patrol Sgt. Eric Erickson. Only one lane was open on some highways because plows couldn't keep up with the blowing snow, officers said.

"The weather is really gross. I mean really bad this year," said Ed Kinkle, State Patrol dispatcher in Spooner, Wis. "We have extremely large amounts of snow with great drifting and blowing."

"This is the worst snowstorm we've had in a long time," said Pat Golomb of Butternut, Wis. "The snowmobilers say it's white gold because they wait for this. It's very deep and very slippery."

Much of the Plains and Upper Midwest had been enjoying temperatures in the 50s and 60s for the last several weeks. By late Tuesday morning, the temperature in Minneapolis was 33, Sioux Falls had 23 and Superior, Wis., reported 30, the weather service said.

Mendes to leave London theater

The Associated Press

LONDON — Sam Mendes will step down next November as artistic director of London's Donmar Warehouse theater after 10 years, during which he turned a 251-seat playhouse into an international powerhouse.

"I just want to be able to have some time off," Mendes, 36, told The Associated Press. "At a certain point, you've done all your favorite plays — all the things that were in your mind to do — and you think someone else should have a shot; that's what I feel."

Before he goes, Mendes will direct a repertory season of two classics: Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," both opening next October. English actor Simon Russell Beale will head both casts, with an ensemble expected to include Nicole Kidman, who has already appeared to much excitement at the Donmar in David Hare's "The Blue Room."

On the film front, Mendes is putting the finishing touches on his sophomore directing effort, "The Road to Perdition," starring Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Alfred Molina and Jude Law.

Mendes won a directing Oscar for 1999's "American Beauty."

Faces n places

Frampton still alive

CINCINNATI — The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have prompted Peter Frampton, now a resident of suburban Cincinnati, to sponsor a benefit concert.

The 51-year-old singer will headline the "Cincinnati USA for Relief" concert on Dec. 9 at the Taft Theatre.

Frampton, a native of England, also said he intends to become a U.S. citizen.

"Because of what's happened, everyone feels a little more American since Sept. 11," he said. "I've got the forms to start the process to become an American citizen. I will become one as soon as I can."

Married to Tina Elfers of suburban Cincinnati, Frampton has spent most of his time in the United States in recent years.

"I know we won't raise as much money as some of those other concerts," Frampton said. "That's not the idea. It's just to get together as many people who have ties in Cincinnati and want to come and help."

Granddaughter inspiration

LONDON — Richard Harris didn't want to play the part of Headmaster Dumbledore in "Harry

Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" — but his young granddaughter changed his mind.

"I didn't like the commitment; the idea that if I do the one, you gotta do the other four or five," Harris told reporters recently. "So, some newspaper printed the fact I wasn't going to do it, or didn't want to do it, and all of a sudden my granddaughter panicked and said, 'You're going to do it,' and I said, 'OK.'"

The fan mail has been overwhelming, said the 71-year-old Harris, whose films include "This Sporting Life," "Camelot" and last year's "Gladiator."

"I used to get maybe 12 fan letters a year, if that, because I'm at the pinnacle of my decline as an actor," he said. "And all of a sudden as soon as it was announced I was doing Dumbledore, the sacks are coming in this high. ... I'm talking about thousands and thousands of letters coming in."

Harris said his favorite scene in the movie is a chess game with larger-than-life stone pieces that destroy each other.

"I think it's superb," he said. "I think it's unbelievably imaginative and creative. Brilliantly done. Superbly shot."

Sapp keys Tampa Bay upset

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Warren Sapp slowed up what he called "the greatest show on turf" just in time to keep the Tampa Bay Buccaneers alive in the playoff race.

The Bucs upset the St. Louis Rams 24-17 on Monday night as the 300-pound defensive tackle, who had just three sacks coming into the game, added two more against Kurt Warner, forced a fumble and spent much of the game in the St. Louis backfield.

Mike Alstott ran for touchdowns of 7 and 8 yards and Warrick Dunn scored from 21 yards out early in the fourth quarter to break a 17-17 tie.

Two late interceptions sealed the win and kept the Bucs (5-5) in the NFC playoff race. The loss dropped St. Louis (8-2) into a tie for first in the NFC West with San Francisco.

But the win didn't come easy.

With 6:30 left, the Bucs had a fourth-and-inches at the St. Louis 10 following a blocked punt by Ronde Barber. Instead of trying a field goal that would have given them a 10-point lead, they went for it and got the first down.

But three plays later, Brian Young intercepted Brad Johnson's

NFL

pass and the Rams reached the Bucs 42 before Donnie Abraham intercepted Warner's fourth-down pass to quell that threat.

The Rams got the ball back with 2:35 left, but John Lynch intercepted Warner's first pass to clinch the game.

The Rams, who beat Tampa Bay 11-6 here in the NFC title game two seasons ago and lost 38-35 in Tampa last season, moved up and down the field all night but managed just one TD. They fumbled three times and took over the NFL lead in turnovers with 32.

Sapp came into the game with just three sacks in nine games. Last season, he had 16½ and his 29 in the 1999 and 2000 seasons led the NFL over that period.

But on this night, he lived up to his reputation, even forcing Frank Garcia, who had started at left guard for the injured Tom Nuten, out of the game. Nuten, who had a high ankle sprain, returned in the third quarter and limped off again in the fourth.

The Bucs led 10-9 at halftime although they were outgained 210-

95.

Jeff Wilkins' 44-yard field goal on the opening drive gave the Rams a 3-0 lead, but only after Warner threw three straight incomplete passes, missing a wide-open Isaac Bruce in the end zone on first down.

Alstott's 7-yard run 1:41 into the second period gave the Bucs a 7-3 lead. It came at the end of a 54-yard drive that began when Sapp recovered a fumble by Bruce.

Wilkins made it 7-6 with a 42-yard field goal 5 minutes before halftime. But Tampa Bay got the 3 points back on Martin Gramatica's 36-yarder after Sapp sacked Warner, forcing a fumble that Marcus Jones recovered at the St. Louis 22.

Wilkins returned the favor with a 24-yarder on the final play of the half.

Then the Bucs went 68 yards on 11 plays to open the second half, with Alstott zigzagging in from 8 yards out to make it 17-9.

The Rams drove 85 yards in 12 plays to score on a 1-yard fourth down pass from Warner to tight end Brandon Manumaleuna. Faulk ran in a 2-point conversion to tie the game at 17.

Sports briefs

Drug test results probed

MONACO, Monte Carlo Track's international federation is investigating why two parts of a drug test on high-jump champion Javier Sotomayor produced markedly different results.

The International Association of Athletic Federations council was told that the first part of the 1992 Olympic champion's sample tested positive for the steroid nandrolone after a July 14 meet in Spain. But the second part showed 50 percent less of the drug.

He cannot be declared positive, IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said.

Smith tests positive for coke

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Jimmy Smith's heartwarming comeback story took a shocking turn when tests showed the Jacksonville Jaguars receiver had cocaine in his system.

The tests were taken Nov. 11, after police arrested Smith on suspicion of drunken driving.

The four-time Pro Bowl receiver will not be prosecuted because his blood-alcohol level was under the state legal limit of .08, and because he was not in possession of cocaine at the time of the arrest.

Ravens RB breaks foot

OWINGS MILLS, Md. Baltimore running back Jason Brookins broke his right foot in Sunday's game against Jacksonville and could be lost for the season.

Brookins becomes the third Ravens running back to miss significant playing time because of injury.

Top NHL scorer injured

SUNRISE, Fla. Pavel Bure, the NHL's leading goal scorer the last two seasons, was placed on injured reserve by the Florida Panthers because of a concussion.

Rangers sign free agent

ARLINGTON, Texas Right-hander Todd Van Poppel became the first of the 155 free agents to sign, agreeing to a \$7.5 million, three-year contract with the Texas Rangers.

Home run ball locked away

SAN FRANCISCO A San Francisco County judge ruled tentatively that Barry Bonds' 73rd home run ball must be kept under lock and key until an ownership dispute is settled.

San Francisco Giants fan Alex Popov temporarily caught the ball Oct. 7 at Pacific Bell Park, but lost it after fans piled on top of him during a brief skirmish. Days later, he sued Patrick Hayashi, who wound up with the ball.

The Associated Press

Camby dunks Knicks past Hawks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first time Marcus Camby got his hands on the ball, he dunked it.

Five other dunks followed, and Camby had 18 points and 10 rebounds while playing 35 minutes in his first game of the season as the New York Knicks defeated the Atlanta Hawks 88-83 on Monday night.

"I was mainly flowing on adrenaline tonight," said Camby, who sat out the first 14 games because of a foot injury. "My chest was burning a little bit out there. I played more minutes than I expected."

Latrell Sprewell tied his season-high with 29 points, including the Knicks' final eight. Allan Houston added 18, and Mark Jackson had 11 assists. Despite forwards Kurt Thomas and Othella Harrington being in foul trouble throughout the fourth quarter, the Knicks held

NBA roundup

Atlanta to just one basket in the final 6½ minutes.

The Hawks, who led by as many as 14, managed only 28 points in the second half.

"We should have had the game in hand with three minutes to go. We were pretty much in control of the game," said Shareef Abdur-Rahim, who led the Hawks with 26 points.

Pistons 105, Magic 100

Clifford Robinson had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and Chucky Atkins' three-pointer with 50 seconds to play put Detroit ahead of visiting Orlando for good.

Corliss Williamson scored 11 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter for Detroit (9-4).

Grizzlies 98, Kings 94

Jason Williams scored eight of his 19 points in the final 2:17 to rally host Memphis over his for-

mer team.

Williams, traded to Memphis by Sacramento in the offseason, and Rodney Buford, who scored 21 points, helped lead the Grizzlies to their second win in 13 games.

Suns 111, Jazz 104, OT

Stephon Marbury scored 33 points and sparked an overtime run that led Phoenix to the win at Utah.

Marbury and Rodney Rogers hit three-pointers in a 9-1 burst in the first 3:43 of overtime. Phoenix missed five free throws in the extra period, but held Utah to 2-of-10 shooting.

Shawn Marion had 15 points, and Penny Hardaway and Tony Delk each added 14 for the Suns.

Karl Malone, who played the final 36 minutes, paced Utah with 27 points.

Donyell Marshall had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the Jazz (5-9), who have yet to win consecutive games this season and are off to the worst start in 18 years.